

## Recycling and Refuse Management Committee Minutes

Jan. 10, 2008

*No quorum, no official action and no votes taken.*

**Present:** Susan Waite, Recycling Coordinator; Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works; Meg Vickery, RRMCM Chair; Pat Church; Lucy McMurrer; Sasha Mastroianni, ARHS Environmental Action Club member.

### **Updates:**

**Waste Haulers:** The Amherst Board of Health gave us permission in November to administer the waste hauler licensure process on their behalf. Susan is now completing the annual process for 2008 with 2007 licensed haulers. Word "recycling" also now on the licenses. Concerns Pat brought up led to a discussion of town regulations regarding waste and recycling. Should we have a basic list to send out to landlords as a reminder? Town Meeting is in April, if we want to ask for BOH regulations to be strengthened. Fines and fees will also help (as would a non-police enforcement officer). We should also double check haulers as to where they're depositing recycling once they've picked it up.

**DEP Grants:** The grant request for equipment was denied but we did receive technical assistance for composting. Susan's discussions with DEP contact led to questioning whether school composting is sustainable without outside financial support. Schools' use of Styrofoam is in violation of town by-laws (which have not yet been identified). The DEP contact suggested Cambridge might be a good resource for Styrofoam-free activism. Finally, South Hadley and Whole Foods partnered up for a 5% day benefiting South Hadley High School's composting efforts. We should think about this for Amherst.

**Transfer Station:** A Transfer Station employee is concerned about Styrofoam and would like to explore reuse options. Additionally, could we do in-town composting at the Transfer Station? This could raise money. We should discuss this at next month's meeting.

**Business recycling/sticker distribution:** Do we want to continue this or end it? Should this become an annual issue? Pat said she'd visit Collective Copies and a few downtown businesses regarding sticker distribution.

**MassRecycles:** The MassRecycles Paper Campaign has officially begun. We ought to publicize it. Letter to the editor? Susan or Sasha may do this.

### **New Topics:**

What sort of 2008 goals would we like to work towards as a committee? Becoming more involved in the MassRecycles paper campaign? The Amherst business recognition?

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 14, at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucy McMurrer, RRMCM member